

amino acids and having a carboxy terminal amino acid, an amino terminal amino acid, a therapeutically active region of amino acids and a less therapeutically active region of amino acids, the peptide not containing a cysteine, the method comprising the steps of synthesizing the peptide from the carboxy terminal amino acid, and coupling a maleimido-containing group, either directly or via a lysine, to the carboxy terminal amino acid, to the amino terminal amino acid, or to an amino acid comprised between the carboxy terminal amino acid and the amino terminal amino acid, the maleimido-containing group reacting with thiol groups on blood component to form a covalent bond therewith.

<sup>38</sup>  
~~37~~. (New) A method as claimed in claim <sup>35</sup>~~36~~ wherein the maleimido-containing group is coupled to the carboxy terminal amino acid.

<sup>38</sup>  
~~38~~. (New) A method as claimed in claim <sup>35</sup>~~36~~ wherein the maleimido-containing group is coupled to the peptide via a lysine.

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#### REMARKS

Applicant seeks to amend the claims prior to the prosecution. Claims 1-26 have been canceled. New claims 27-38 are added. After entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 27-38 will be pending. The new claims are supported throughout the application as filed.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 500862002100. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: Michael R. Ward  
Michael R. Ward  
Registration No. 38,651

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
425 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94105-2482  
Telephone: (415) 268-6237  
Facsimile: (415) 268-7522